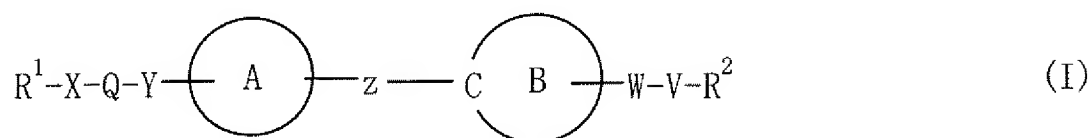


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the formula:



wherein

R¹ is an optionally substituted ~~5-membered heterocyclic~~ oxazolyl group;

X, Y and V

are the same or different and each is a bond, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, -CO-, -CS-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -CR³(OR⁴)-, -NR⁵-, -CONR⁶-, -NR⁶CO-, -CSNR⁶-, -NR⁶CS- or -CONR⁶NR⁷- (R³ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R⁴ is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group, R⁵ is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group, and R⁶ and R⁷ are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group);

Q is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

ring A is a benzene ring ~~an aromatic ring~~ optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

Z is -(CH₂)_n-Z¹- or -Z¹-(CH₂)_n- (n is an integer of 0 1 to 8 and Z¹ is ~~a bond, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, CO-, CS-, SO-, SO₂-, NR⁸-, CONR⁸-, NR⁸CO-, CSNR⁸- or NR⁸CS-~~ (R⁸ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group));

ring B is a ~~nitrogen-containing heterocycle~~ pyrazole ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

W is a bond or a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms; and

R^2 is ~~a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, $-PO(OR^9)(OR^{10})$ (R^9 and R^{10} are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, or R^9 and R^{10} are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring), $-COR^{11}$ [R^{11} is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, $-OR^{12}$ (R^{12} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or $-NR^{13}R^{14}$ (R^{13} and R^{14} are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, an optionally substituted acyl group or an optionally substituted hydroxy group, or R^{13} and R^{14} are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring)], an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, or an optionally substituted heterocyclic thiazolyl group,~~

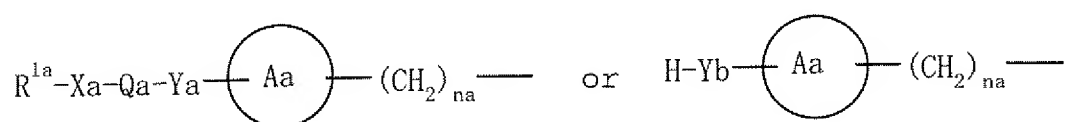
provided that

1) ~~$W-V-R^2$ is not " $Wa-(C=O)-R^a$ [Wa is a saturated divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and R^a is $-OR^b$ (R^b is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or $-NR^cR^d$ (R^c and R^d are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group or an acyl group, and R^c and R^d are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring together with the adjacent nitrogen atom)]"~~

2 1) ring A and ring B do not have a substituent represented by the formula:

$-W^a-(C=O)-R^a$ [W^a is a saturated divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and R^a is $-OR^b$ (R^b is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or $-NR^cR^d$ (R^c and R^d are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group or an acyl group, and R^c and R^d are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring together with the adjacent nitrogen atom)] (~~W^a and R^a are as defined above~~),

3 2) ring B does not have, on a ring-constituting N atom, a substituent represented by the formula:



wherein

R^{1a} is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

X^a and Y^a

are the same or different and each is a bond, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, $-CO-$, $-CS-$, $-SO-$, $-SO_2-$, $-CR^{3a}(OR^{4a})-$, $-NR^{5a}-$, $-CONR^{6a}-$ or $-NR^{6a}CO-$ (R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R^{4a} is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group, R^{5a} is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group, R^{6a} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group);

Q^a is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

ring Aa is an aromatic ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

na is an integer of 1 to 8; and

Yb is an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or -NR^{6a}- (R^{6a} is as defined above),

[[4]] 3 -X-Q-Y- is not -(CH₂)_{na}- (na is an integer of 1 to 8),

~~5) when the nitrogen-containing heterocycle represented by ring B is a pyridine ring, the ring B does not have a further substituent, W is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, V is a bond and R² is -PO(OR⁹)(OR¹⁰) or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,~~

6 4) when R¹ has a substituent represented by the formula: -Wa-(C=O)-R^a (Wa and R^a are as defined above), W is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and V is a bond and R² is ~~-PO(OR⁹)(OR¹⁰) or an optionally substituted~~ heterocyclic group,

~~except-~~

~~5-{2-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-1,3-oxazol-4-yl)methoxyphenyl]ethyl}-4-methoxymethoxymethyl-2-phenyl-1,3-oxazole;~~

~~(5-{2-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-1,3-oxazol-4-yl)methoxyphenyl]ethyl}-2-phenyl-1,3-oxazol-4-yl)methanol;~~

~~(5-{2-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-1,3-oxazol-4-yl)methoxyphenyl]ethyl}-2-phenyl-1,3-oxazol-4-yl)acetonitrile;~~

~~ethyl 2-ethoxycarbonyl-3-(5-{2-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-1,3-oxazol-4-yl)methoxyphenyl]ethyl}-2-phenyl-1,3-oxazol-4-yl)propionate;~~

~~methyl 3-(4-[[2-(2-furyl)-5-methyl-1,3-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy]-3-methoxybenzyl]oxy)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate;~~

~~[3-(4-[[2-(2-furyl)-5-methyl-1,3-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy]-3-methoxybenzyl]oxy)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl]methanol;~~

~~3-(4-[[2-(2-furyl)-5-methyl-1,3-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy]-3-methoxybenzyl]oxy)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carbaldehyde; and~~

~~[3-(4-[[2-(2-furyl)-5-methyl-1,3-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy]-3-methoxybenzyl]oxy)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl]acetonitrile, or a salt thereof.~~

2.-3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein X is a bond.

5. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein Q is a C₁₋₆ alkylene or a C₂₋₆ alkenylene.

6. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein Y is an oxygen atom.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the substituent that ring B may further have is a hydrocarbon group.

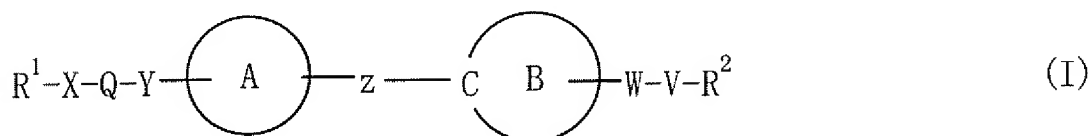
9. (Original) The compound of claim 8, wherein the hydrocarbon group is a C₁₋₁₀ alkyl group, a C₇₋₁₃ aralkyl group or a C₆₋₁₄ aryl group.

10. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein V is a bond.

11.-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein W is a C₁₋₆ alkylene or a C₂₋₆ alkenylene; and V is a bond; ~~and R² is -PO(OR⁹)(OR¹⁰) (R⁹ and R¹⁰ are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, or R⁹ and R¹⁰ are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring) or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group.~~

16. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound represented by the formula:



wherein

R¹ is an optionally substituted ~~5-membered heterocyclic~~ oxazolyl group;

X, Y and V

are the same or different and each is a bond, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, -CO-, -CS-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -CR³(OR⁴)-, -NR⁵-, -CONR⁶-, -NR⁶CO-, -CSNR⁶-, -NR⁶CS- or -CONR⁶NR⁷- (R³ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R⁴ is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group, R⁵ is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting

group, and R^6 and R^7 are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group);

Q is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

ring A is ~~an aromatic ring~~ a benzene ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

Z is $-(CH_2)_n-Z^1-$ or $-Z^1-(CH_2)_n-$ (n is an integer of θ 1 to 8 and Z^1 is ~~a bond, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, CO, CS, SO, SO₂, NR⁸, CONR⁸, NR⁸CO, CSNR⁸ or NR⁸CS~~ (R^8 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group));

ring B is ~~a nitrogen-containing heterocycle~~ pyrazole ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

W is a bond or a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms; and

R^2 is ~~a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, -PO(OR⁹)(OR¹⁰)~~ (R^9 and R^{10} are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, or R^9 and R^{10} are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring); ~~-COR¹¹ (R^{11} is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, OR¹² (R^{12} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or -NR¹³R¹⁴ (R^{13} and R^{14} are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, an optionally substituted acyl group or an optionally substituted hydroxy group, or R^{13} and R^{14} are optionally bonded to form an optionally~~

substituted ring)], an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, or an optionally substituted heterocyclic thiazolyl group,

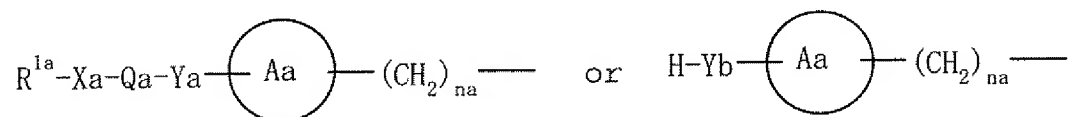
provided that

~~1) -W-V-R₂ is not “-W_a-(C=O)-R^a [W_a is a saturated divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and R^a is -OR^b (R^b is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or -NR^cR^d (R^c and R^d are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group or an acyl group, and R^c and R^d are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring together with the adjacent nitrogen atom)]”,~~

2 1) ring A and ring B do not have a substituent represented by the formula:

-W_a-(C=O)-R^a [W_a is a saturated divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and R^a is -OR^b (R^b is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or -NR^cR^d (R^c and R^d are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group or an acyl group, and R^c and R^d are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring together with the adjacent nitrogen atom)] (W_a and R^a are as defined above),

3 2) ring B does not have, on a ring-constituting N atom, a substituent represented by the formula:



wherein

R^{1a} is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

X_a and Y_a

are the same or different and each is a bond, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, -CO-, -CS-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -CR^{3a}(OR^{4a})-, -NR^{5a}-, -CONR^{6a}- or -NR^{6a}CO- (R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R^{4a} is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group, R^{5a} is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group, R^{6a} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group);

Qa is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

ring Aa is an aromatic ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

na is an integer of 1 to 8; and

Yb is an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or -NR^{6a}- (R^{6a} is as defined above),

[[4]] 3) -X-Q-Y- is not -(CH₂)_{na}- (na is an integer of 1 to 8),

~~5) when the nitrogen-containing heterocycle represented by ring B is a pyridine ring, the ring B does not have a further substituent, W is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, V is a bond and R² is -PO(OR⁹)(OR¹⁰)- or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,~~

6 4) when R¹ has a substituent represented by the formula: -Wa-(C=O)-R^a (Wa and R^a are as defined above), W is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and V is a bond ~~and R² is -PO(OR⁹)(OR¹⁰)- or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,~~

or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

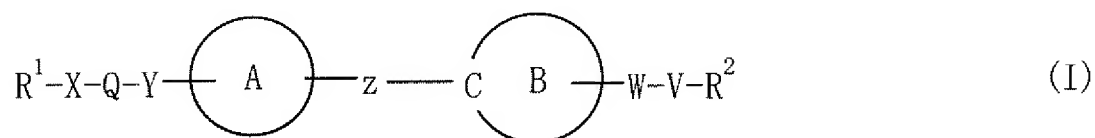
17. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 16, which is an agent for the ~~prophylaxis or~~ treatment of diabetes mellitus.

18.-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 16, which is an agent for the ~~prophylaxis or treatment~~ of obesity.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A retinoid-related receptor function regulating agent, which comprises the compound represented by the formula:



wherein

R¹ is an optionally substituted ~~5-membered heterocyclic~~ oxazolyl group;

X, Y and V

are the same or different and each is a bond, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, -CO-, -CS-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -CR³(OR⁴)-, -NR⁵-, -CONR⁶-, -NR⁶CO-, -CSNR⁶-, -NR⁶CS- or -CONR⁶NR⁷- (R³ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R⁴ is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group, R⁵ is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group, and R⁶ and R⁷ are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group);

Q is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

ring A is ~~an aromatic ring~~ a benzene ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

Z is $-(CH_2)_n-Z^1-$ or $-Z^1-(CH_2)_n-$ (n is an integer of 0 1 to 8 and Z^1 is ~~a bond,~~
~~an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, CO, CS, SO, SO₂, NR⁸, CONR⁸, NR⁸CO, CSNR⁸ or NR⁸CS~~ (R^8 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group));

ring B is ~~a nitrogen-containing heterocycle~~ pyrazole ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

W is a bond or a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;
and

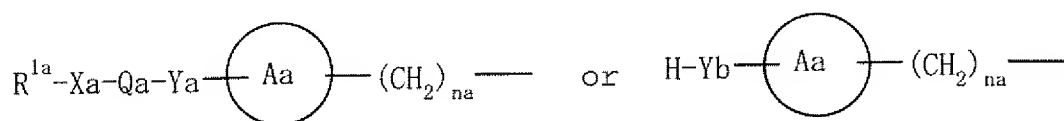
R^2 is ~~a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, $-PO(OR^9)(OR^{10})$ (R^9 and R^{10} are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, or R^9 and R^{10} are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring), $-COR^{11}$ (R^{11} is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, $-OR^{12}$ (R^{12} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or $-NR^{13}R^{14}$ (R^{13} and R^{14} are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, an optionally substituted acyl group or an optionally substituted hydroxy group, or R^{13} and R^{14} are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring))), an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, or an optionally substituted heterocyclic thiazolyl group,~~

provided that

~~1) W-V-R2 is not "Wa-(C=O)-R^a [Wa is a saturated divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and R^a is -OR^b (R^b is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or -NR^cR^d (R^c and R^d are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group or an acyl group, and R^c and R^d are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring together with the adjacent nitrogen atom)]"~~

2) ring A and ring B do not have a substituent represented by the formula:
~~-Wa-(C=O)-R^a [Wa is a saturated divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and R^a is -OR^b (R^b is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or -NR^cR^d (R^c and R^d are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group or an acyl group, and R^c and R^d are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring together with the adjacent nitrogen atom)] (Wa and R^a are as defined above),~~

3) ring B does not have, on a ring-constituting N atom, a substituent represented by the formula:



wherein

R^{1a} is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

Xa and Ya

are the same or different and each is a bond, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, -CO-, -CS-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -CR^{3a}(OR^{4a})-, -NR^{5a}-, -CONR^{6a}- or -NR^{6a}CO- (R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R^{4a} is a hydrogen atom

or a hydroxyl-protecting group, R^{5a} is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group, R^{6a} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group);

Qa is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

ring Aa is an aromatic ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

na is an integer of 1 to 8; and

Yb is an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or $-NR^{6a}-$ (R^{6a} is as defined above),

[[4]] 3) $-X-Q-Y-$ is not $-(CH_2)_n-$ (na is an integer of 1 to 8),

~~5) when the nitrogen-containing heterocycle represented by ring B is a pyridine ring, the ring B does not have a further substituent, W is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, V is a bond and R^2 is $-PO(OR^9)(OR^{10})-$ or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,~~

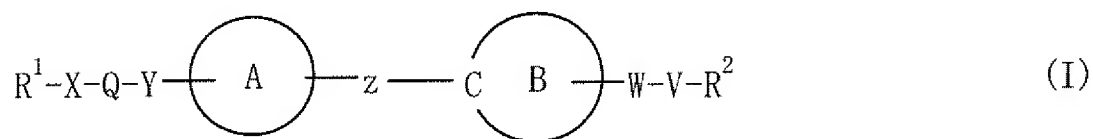
6 4) when R1 has a substituent represented by the formula: $-Wa-(C=O)-R^a$ (Wa and R^a are as defined above), W is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and V is a bond ~~and R^2 is $-PO(OR^9)(OR^{10})-$ or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,~~

or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

23. (Original) The agent of claim 22, which is a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor ligand.

24. (Original) The agent of claim 22, which is a retinoid X receptor ligand.

25. (Currently Amended) An agent for improving insulin resistance, which comprises the compound represented by the formula:



wherein

R¹ is an optionally substituted ~~5-membered heterocyclic~~ oxazolyl group;

X, Y and V

are the same or different and each is a bond, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, -CO-, -CS-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -CR³(OR⁴)-, -NR⁵-, -CONR⁶-, -NR⁶CO-, -CSNR⁶-, -NR⁶CS- or -CONR⁶NR⁷- (R³ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R⁴ is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group, R⁵ is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group, and R⁶ and R⁷ are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group);

Q is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

ring A is ~~an aromatic ring~~ a benzene ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

Z is -(CH₂)_n-Z¹- or -Z¹-(CH₂)_n- (n is an integer of 0 1 to 8 and Z¹ is ~~a bond, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, CO-, CS-, SO-, SO₂-, NR⁸-, CONR⁸-, NR⁸CO-, CSNR⁸- or -NR⁸CS-~~ (R⁸ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group));

ring B is a ~~nitrogen-containing heterocycle~~ pyrazole ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

W is a bond or a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms; and

~~R² is a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, -PO(OR⁹)(OR¹⁰) (R⁹ and R¹⁰ are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, or R⁹ and R¹⁰ are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring), -COR¹¹ (R¹¹ is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, -OR¹² (R¹² is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or -NR¹³R¹⁴ (R¹³ and R¹⁴ are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, an optionally substituted acyl group or an optionally substituted hydroxy group, or R¹³ and R¹⁴ are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring)), an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, or an optionally substituted heterocyclic thiazolyl group,~~

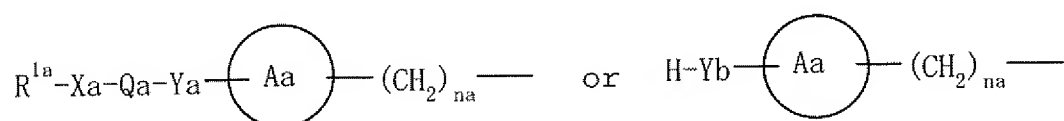
provided that

~~1) -W-V-R² is not -W^a-(C=O)-R^a [W^a is a saturated divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and R^a is -OR^b (R^b is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or -NR^cR^d (R^c and R^d are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group or an acyl group, and R^c and R^d are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring together with the adjacent nitrogen atom)]",~~

2 1) ring A and ring B do not have a substituent represented by the formula:

$-W_a-(C=O)-R^a$ [W_a is a saturated divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and R^a is $-OR^b$ (R^b is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or $-NR^cR^d$ (R^c and R^d are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group or an acyl group, and R^c and R^d are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring together with the adjacent nitrogen atom)] (~~W_a and R^a are as defined above~~),

3 2) ring B does not have, on a ring-constituting N atom, a substituent represented by the formula:



wherein

R^{1a} is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

X_a and Y_a

are the same or different and each is a bond, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, $-CO-$, $-CS-$, $-SO-$, $-SO_2-$, $-CR^{3a}(OR^{4a})-$, $-NR^{5a}-$, $-CONR^{6a}-$ or $-NR^{6a}CO-$ (R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R^{4a} is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group, R^{5a} is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group, R^{6a} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group);

Q_a is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

ring Aa is an aromatic ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

na is an integer of 1 to 8; and

Yb is an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or -NR^{6a}- (R^{6a} is as defined above),

[[4]] 3) -X-Q-Y- is not -(CH₂)_{na}- (na is an integer of 1 to 8),

~~5) when the nitrogen-containing heterocycle represented by ring B is a pyridine ring, the ring B does not have a further substituent, W is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, V is a bond and R² is -PO(OR⁹)(OR¹⁰) or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,~~

6 4) when R¹ has a substituent represented by the formula: -Wa-(C=O)-R^a (Wa and R^a are as defined above), W is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and V is a bond ~~and R² is -PO(OR⁹)(OR¹⁰) or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,~~

or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

26.-29. (Canceled)